

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581

tel: (508) 389-6360; fax: (508) 389-7891

www.nhesp.org

Coastal Swamp Metarranthis *Metarranthis pilosaria*

State Status: **Special Concern**

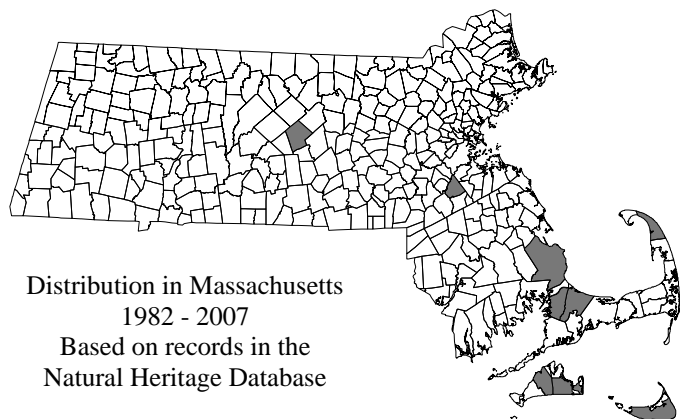
Federal Status: None

Description: The Coastal Swamp Metarranthis is a geometrid moth with smoothly curved postmedian lines on all four wings, the area inside the postmedian lines reddish-brown and the area outside pinkish-tan; the reniform spots are absent, and the discal spots small and black; all four wings are peppered with black, and are bright orange ventrally. The wingspan is 24-28 mm.

Habitat: In Massachusetts the Coastal Swamp Metarranthis inhabits acidic swamps and bogs, as well as sandplain pitch pine/scrub oak barrens and heathlands.

Life History: Adult moths fly in June and early July. Larvae feed on blueberry (*Vaccinium*) in dry habitats, and blueberry, cranberry (*Vaccinium*), and probably also leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) or other heaths in wet habitats. Larvae feed through the summer, and pupate in September. The pupa overwinters.

Range: The Coastal Swamp Metarranthis is endemic to eastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and southern New Jersey. In Massachusetts it is found on the southeastern coastal plain, and in a few inland bogs.



Distribution in Massachusetts
1982 - 2007

Based on records in the
Natural Heritage Database



Photo by M.W. Nelson

Adult Flight Period in Massachusetts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Threats

- Habitat loss
- Fire suppression
- Hydrologic alteration
- Invasion by exotic plants
- Introduced generalist parasitoids
- Insecticide spraying
- Off-road vehicles
- Light pollution